

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
SOIL & WATER CONCERNS
April 11, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Esser at 9:55 a.m. Esser verified the posting of the agenda. Members present for roll call were Henry Esser, Dave Olson, Don Dudenbostel and Harriet Behar. Wade Dull was excused.

Motion by Behar to approve the minutes as mailed, second by Dudenbostel. Motion carried unanimously.

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

Farmland Preservation Plan

Dave Bonifas presented a final copy of the plan for FPP with suggested changes and maps. A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 18 at 9:00 a.m. for comments from the public; have not heard from DATCP with suggested changes yet. The plan will then need to be presented to County Board for approval in June.

Report

Attended the Annual WLWCA in Elkhart Lake with approximately 380 other professionals and was very informative. Cover Crop Field Day was held last Friday with approximately 50 people in attendance at the Swede Knutson farm. The LCD had a Job Shadow Day with Wauzeka School students. Tomorrow he will be going to Baraboo for Transcendent Training on the Farmland Preservation Software Programming. There has been a lot of discussion and phone calls concerning the Zoning Department, hiring a technician, full time office staff and getting information and suggestions for possibly merging of the two offices and discussed financial implications from other agencies and individuals. LCC will be meeting with Personnel at 1:00 p.m. today for a joint committee meeting. Starting to get a lot of phone calls on clean sweep and tire clean up, as well as preparing for the tree sales and distribution at the end of the month. The office has been very busy.

Kobby Antwi, DNR Forester, is no longer with the DNR; therefore, Crawford County may NOT have a DNR forester located in Crawford County going forward. Currently DNR Forester Julie Van Cleve, Richland Center, is handling all contacts made by Crawford County residents. We have been receiving a lot of calls concerning this situation and questions regarding the MFL.

The tree planter is being utilized this spring and we are developing a rental agreement, charges and procedure for this as previously was handled by the forester. The planter is currently housed at the Highway Department.

Tire Clean Up

The committee and department discussed and agreed to again hold another Tire Clean up for the 2nd or 3rd weekend in June on a Saturday at the Highway Department; it will be handled by Town and Country. The Clean Sweep will be held the last Friday in October. Details will be worked out with the Highway Department and others involved.

Stewardship Week Proclamation

Motion by Behar to proclaim April 30 to May 7, 2017 as Soil & Water Stewardship Week and have county board sign and recognize this with a Proclamation, second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously.

2018 SWRM Grant Application

The SWRM grant application was presented and discussion of how positions of line 1 and line 2 may be affected in the future due to zoning issues, etc. Motion by Olson to approve and sign the 2018 SWRM grant as presented, second by Behar. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Bills were presented. Olson made the motion to pay bills as presented, second by Dudenbostel, motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS

Bunting stated he has spent the last month doing design and surveying work. Visited the dam but decided not to burn.

Travis presented an issue concerning an individual that has land in the CREP perpetual easement program that is no longer in CRP and wants to put underground power lines across the property to build a house. He has driveway access, however, it would not cost as much if he crosses the land and does not go along the driveway. A proposal must be presented to the LCC and then to DATCP, as well as the power company in Utica Township before he is able to proceed with the project. Travis would like an indication if the committee would approve such a proposal or not. The committee agreed that yes they would consider a proposal to cross the CREP land, but would need to see more specifics before approving it.

KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS

Next sign up deadline is June 2nd. Currently marking strips and working on 2017 applications. The agency has a new state conservationist.

DNR FORESTER

VANCE HAUGEN, UW Extension (not present)

JOHN BAIRD, FSA

Crop reporting appointments are being made. Working with Vernon County on CRP work as Beth left and there is a hiring freeze; short staffed and doing more with less. CP42-Pollinator Program is coming close to meeting acres. A discussion of CRP rates being at \$110.00 in Crawford County was held.

Public Comment

Forest Jahnke stated that Crawford Stewardship is very concerned about the additional duties/workload possibly being placed on the Land Conservation Department and staff.

Next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 9, 2017.**

Behar made the motion to adjourn at 10:55 a.m., second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harriet Behar
Secretary

DT:HB:cjw